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noticed it on July 14, 1902, in a hay field about a mile from Port Sandfield, and for some days had every opportunity of watching the males as they sat on the fence and uttered their rather wheezy note. Two or more pairs were in the one field, and I could find none in any of the few likely places elsewhere.—J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Ontario*.

**Notes on the Summer Birds of Berkshire County, Massachusetts.**—I spent the week of June 17–22, 1902, in Williamstown and vicinity with Mr. Louis Agassiz Shaw, making some observations perhaps of value to those interested in the Berkshire County avifauna. My notes are supplemented by the notes of Messrs. Francis G. and Maurice C. Blake who were residents of Williamstown during the years 1900 and 1901.

The weather while we were there was cool and rainy days alternated with cloudless ones.

**Bartramia longicauda.** Five pairs or so were found evidently breeding on Northwest Hill, and two pairs on the Vermont (Pownal) line. Four specimens were taken (three males and one female), all adults, but with the sexual organs little enlarged. They were in the upland meadows in fairly tall grass (eight inches), and when flushed lit on barns, fences or trees. On the 21st, a rainy day, they were heard not only to utter their common call note, but a prolonged wind-like whistle—sounding like an eolian harp—which can best be represented thus: *phue-phue-phue-phue phue phue, phue-phue-phue*, uttered as they sailed like hawks above the meadows, or while perching. The Messrs. Blake tell me they saw four on June 19, 1900, and two June 15, 1901, near Stone Hill. In the first instance they were heard 'singing.' Although breeding in the Western States in May and early June, I believe they do not begin to nest in Massachusetts until after the middle of June.

**Colaptes auratus luteus.** Noticeably uncommon; only nine birds were observed during our stay.

**Otocorys alpestris praticola.** Several pairs were found breeding on Northwest Hill (1000 ft.). They were seen feeding in the roads, on the ploughed lands, and in the long grass meadows. One was heard singing from the ridge-pole of a barn. The song consists of a few notes, followed by a rising, rolling trill, ending with a few single notes. It is unpretentious, but sweet.

**Cyanocitta cristata.** Also noticeably uncommon. The only birds heard were on Greylock and in the Hopper, three individuals altogether.

**Ammodramus henslowii.** Common about Williamstown, in wet meadows grown up with the steeple-bush (*Spiræa tomentosa*). In Norwood, Massachusetts, a meadow they inhabit is grown with sedges (*Scirpus atrocinctus*, *Carex monile*, *bullata*, *flava*, *scoparia*), red-top (*Agrostis alba vulgaris*, fowl-meadow grass (*Poa serotina*), and rush *Juncus effusus*—species kindly identified by Mr. Walter Deane); and Mr. G. M. Allen tells me the white hellebore (*Veratrum viride*) was the principal growth in a meadow where he once found them in New

Hampshire. We found several pairs on the east slope of Stone Hill, and quite a colony on the western slope of Northwest Hill on both the Massachusetts and Vermont (Pownal) side of the State line.

*Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*. One pair found on the east slope of Northwest Hill in Williamstown.

*Vireo flavifrons*. This species and *V. gilvus* were heard in the village of Williamstown, and the former also at South Williamstown.

*Dendroica æstiva*. A single bird was heard singing on Mt. Greylock at 2500 feet elevation.

*Cistothorus palustris*. A pair were found inhabiting a small flag-grown meadow brook in Hoosac Swamp in Williamstown (600 ft.). Pontoosuc Lake is the only other locality in the county from which they have been recorded.

*Hylocichla aliciae bicknelli*. One heard calling on the summit of Mt. Greylock on the 18th.

*Hylocichla guttata pallasii*. One heard singing on the Greylock range.

*Hylocichla mustelina*. One pair found about the meadow in the Hoosac Swamp in Williamstown among some alders, and others were heard singing on the side of Mt. Greylock at 2800 feet elevation.

*Sialia sialis*. Exceedingly abundant in the low country.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

Grinnell's 'Check-List of California Birds.'<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Grinnell's 'Check-List of California Birds' has evidently been prepared with care and gives a large amount of information in a condensed form about the manner of occurrence of California birds within the State of California. The list numbers 491 species and subspecies, with an additional 'Hypothetical List' of 33 species "ascribed to California, but concerning which there is doubt either as to the evidence of their occurrence or as to their validity as species." Doubtless many of these will be later added to the fauna of the State through positive records of occurrence. An 'accidental,' "to be worthy of a place on the State List," according to the author's excel-

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<sup>1</sup> Check-List of California Birds. By Joseph Grinnell. Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 3. Cooper Ornithological Club of California. Large 8vo, pp. 92 2 col. maps.